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Cinderella!

Stars go from east to west to perform ballet at Chiefland Elementary School



Cinderella (Juliette Clavier) answers a question posed by a student at Chiefland Elementary School. The Danscompany of Gainesville Inc. brought these performing artists to Chiefland and added to the children's day of learning by briefly exposing them to the performing art of ballet. Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 29, 2017 at 4:17 p.m., All Rights Reserved



All of the dancers performing for the children on Wednesday are (from left) Lynley Potapow, a UF student who is starring as The Peacock (and is a former Cinderella); Madison Duncanson, a high school senior starring as Summer Fairy; Marissa Birmingham, a high school senior who is starring as Spring Fairy; Juliette Clavier, a high school senior who is

starring as Cinderella; Kayla Vairo, a high school senior starring as Winter Fairy; and Jeri Lynn Kapczak, a dance teacher who is starring as the dancer for Egypt (and is a former Cinderella).

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Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 29, 2017 at 4:17 p.m.

CHIEFLAND -- A part of the dance troupe from Gainesville that is scheduled to perform the ballet *Cinderella* in two shows on Dec. 9 brought joy to hundreds of children at Chiefland Elementary School on Wednesday morning (Nov. 29).

As astronomy students at the University of Florida (UF) know, the stars viewed from Earth appear to go from the east to the west. On Wednesday, that relative truth became an absolute reality -- even though one dancer had a physics class and another had a different academic commitment precluding their participation in the performance at CES.

Some of the stars of the ballet *Cinderella* went from the east (Gainesville) to the west (Chiefland) that morning to help young children experience a taste of this form of that performing art.

Cinderella is set for two shows on Dec. 9 at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, which is located on the western side of the University of Florida campus. (Please see the advertisement on the CALENDAR PAGE.)

<https://youtu.be/f6koENsZsG4>

In this five-minute video, there are short clips from some of the performances at Chiefland Elementary School. At the start, there is a part of the introduction to the students to the concept of point shoes – a particular type of ballet footwear. After that, there are parts of the dances by The Peacock (Lynley Potapow); the dancer for the Country of Egypt (Jeri Lynn Kapczak); Spring Fairy (Marissa Birmingham); Summer Fairy (Madison Duncanson); Winter Fairy (Kayla Vairo); and Cinderella’s (Juliette Clavier) dance at the ball.



The first part of the second large set of students to see the performance on Wednesday morning prepare for the show. In the background on the left is Chiefland Elementary School Assistant Principal Kelly

Gore and standing in the doorway is Sgt. Max Long of the Levy County Sheriff’s Office Community Relations Division.

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The performers are on stage as Lynley Potapow tells the children the story of Cinderella.

And similar to the manner in which the globe spins on its axis in space, the star dancers spun for the children, teachers, administrators and other guests that morning as they performed ballet. They danced across the stage with grace and style.

Escorted by Danscompany of Gainesville President Tobi Potapow, the six performers at CES on Wednesday morning were Juliette Clavier, a high school senior who is starring as Cinderella; Lynley Potapow, a UF student who is starring as The Peacock (and is a former Cinderella); Jeri Lynn Kapczak, a dance teacher who is starring as the dancer for Egypt (and is a former Cinderella); Marissa Birmingham, a high school senior who is starring as Spring Fairy; Madison Duncanson, a high school senior starring as Summer Fairy; and Kayla Vairo, a high school senior starring as Winter Fairy.

The ballet dancers presented a PowerPoint show to explain the story of *Cinderella* to the elementary students. They told the children about how a ballet is a play that includes music and dance.

Then, the children were entertained by the dancers performing on stage in the CES Cafetorium.

While President Potapow escorted the visiting dancers from Gainesville to Chiefland, some of the other leaders for the group are Secretary Debbie Clark; Treasurer Anne Arick; Artistic Director Nina Cameron; Dance Captain Peggy Nolan Lamb; Founding President Becky Farber; Immediate Past President Kelly Kostamo; and Parliamentarian Carl Fisher.

The Danscompany of Gainesville Inc. was formed in November of 1983 to offer opportunities for performance to Gainesville area dancers, as noted on the website owned by the group. The company consists of ballet, jazz, and modern dance groups featuring adults and children with more than 120 members. Membership is secured through competitive audition. The love of dance and a desire to perform is what motivated the members to spend long hours and to make personal sacrifices for its concerts, the website notes.

Cinderella is set for two performances on Dec. 9 at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, which is located on the western side of the University of Florida campus.

After that, the current next performance set by this group of dancers is the Spring Concert with *The Wiz* on March 10, 2018.